

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 that are pending in the above-identified patent application. Applicant has amended claims 1-10, amended the specification and added replacement sheets for FIGS. 5, 6, 7, and 8. No new matter is added by way of these claim amendments.

Applicant has requested that the Examiner accept the proposed replacement drawings, which include clearer versions of FIGS. 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,947,118 ("the '118 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,871,010 (the "'010 patent"), and further in view of U.S. 5,472,143 ("the '143 patent"). At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '118 patent, the '010 patent, the '143 patent, and further in view of U.S. 4,889,114. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 1-10 have been amended to recite "a plurality of cells having elevations and/or depressions in a repeating pattern of an egg-carton arrangement." Neither the '118, '010, '143, nor '114 patents disclose this feature. The '010 patent specifically teaches that the elevations and/or depressions are in the form of grooves (col. 7, lines 9-19; and FIGS. 3-6). None of the other cited patents cures this deficiency in the '010 patent. Accordingly, the above-quoted features of independent claim 1 and the subject dependent claims are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the combined teachings of the cited art fail to disclose all of the features of the invention as claimed in independent claim 1, or dependent claims 2-10 of the instant application, and thus the pending § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any fees due and owing in connection with this matter, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Dated: August 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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